GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3366
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
LIFTING OF BAN ON KHESRI PULSE
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent any proposal to the Union Government regarding lifting of ban on Khesri (Lakhodi) pulse ;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) the reasons for imposition of ban on Khesri pulse;

(d) whether the Government has fixed any time-limit for lifting the ban on Khesri pulse; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b): The Government of Maharashatra had sent a proposal for withdrawing the ban for sale of Khesari dal in Maharashtra. However, since, no new facts/ conclusive evidence that Khesari Dal is not harmful was provided by the Government of Maharashtra, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare did not concur with the proposal for revoking the `ban on sale`, notified by the Government of Maharshtra, presently in vogue under Rule 44-A, of the PFA Rules, 1955.

(c) : The sale of Khesari Dal has been prohibited under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adultration Act, 1954, as its consumption is associated with the disease `Lathyrism` causing crippling paralysis due to presence of toxin (BOAA) content in Khesari Dal.

The High Powered Committed on Khesari Dal, constituted by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture on Khesari Dal under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Agriculture Research and Education -cum DG, ICAR, with the approval of Agriculture Minister, has examined the matter in depth and has recommended as follows:-

`1. It was evident that continued consumption of Khesari (Lathyrus sativus) which contains B-N-Oxalyl Amino Alanine (BOAA), causes lathyrism.`

2. The High Power Committee has also recommended that the threshold levels are yet to be precisely established to determine in specific quantitative terms about the use of Khesari, hence, it is essential to undertake further researches and data generation towards achieving this end.

The Report of the High Power Committee on Khesari Dal has been unanimously adopted by the Standing Committee on Agriculture, in its sitting held on 08.11.2001.

(d) & (e): Do not arise.